

**CITY OF MESA**  
**HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)**  
**Ad Hoc ISSUES RESEARCH AND ACTION TEAM (IRA)**  
May 16, 2013 Minutes

The Issues Research and Action Team of the City of Mesa met on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013, at 5:30pm  
at the Mesa City Plaza, 20 E. Main St. Ste. 250.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Denise Heap, Chair  
Frank Johnson  
Cliff Moon  
Orchidia Peterson

MEMBERS ABSENT

Lela Hinds Peterson

STAFF PRESENT

Andrea Arenas  
Ruth Giese

GUESTS

1. Call to Order.

Ms. Heap called the meeting to order at 5:32pm.

2. Items from citizens present.

There were no citizens who requested to speak to IRA.

3. Approval of the April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013 IRA meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Peterson to approve the April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013 minutes and Mr. Moon seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Hear update on the research, discuss, consider and take action on the community discrimination- harassment dialogue series.

Ms. Giese provided information received from Salt Lake City, UT on the administration of their dialogue series. Ms. Giese stated that staff will continue to compile research and begin preliminary administrative planning during the summer break and return for IRA approval before implementation. Ms. Heap suggested working to obtain sponsorship from other boards or affinity groups. Ms. Giese advised that it will be expected for IRA members to reach out to various groups and affiliates to help with promoting the events but engaging in partnership or other sponsorships may imply a certain bias of the discussion. The team agreed that if a group would like to donate refreshments for a particular night, modest recognition and promotion via an information table is appropriate.

IRA members determined that the topics for the discrimination- harassment discussions will include: poverty and classism, faith, ethnicity and race, sexual orientation and gender identity, age and disability; however any form of discrimination will be accepted and documented. A motion was made by Mr. Johnson to accept these topics, Mr. Moon seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The group agreed that discussions are to take place in various areas of the city, perhaps close the target audience at hand, such as the Mesa Community College, Red Mountain Multi-Generation Center, and community rooms from a school, senior center or church. A name was determined for the series as, "Mesa Speaks, Mesa Listens: Community Dialogues on Discrimination".

Ms. Heap questioned if an additional public forum would be needed once the report is written to engage feedback on recommendations to combat the issues. Ms. Giese suggested including that as a question during the discussion so that the same participants can offer their recommendations and not have to return to a second meeting. Ms. Giese also suggested creating a constant contact list of those who would like to receive information as means of keeping the public informed.

Ms. Heap questioned whether they would like to include hate crimes in their list of questions asked. After discussion, it was determined that they will accept data on hate crimes reported but will not solicit for specific information, rather question if an individual has ever felt targeted. The group determined that they will incorporate data from non-city residents if the circumstances of the discrimination took place in Mesa. IRA members also agreed that a large group of facilitators and note takers will be needed. Facilitators must agree to be present on all nights and will have to attend an initial training to insure common reporting and mediating techniques. Training on how to address negative feedback will also need to be provided.

5. Discuss future agenda items, meeting dates, announcements, other housekeeping.

Ms. Heap reminded that Chair/ or Co-Chairs for the committee will need to be determined during strategic planning.

6. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 6:37pm.

Submitted By:



Ruth Giese,  
Diversity Program Administrator